

LINE UPON LINE

studying our pure Bible...

LESSON TWO — INSPIRATION AND PRESERVATION

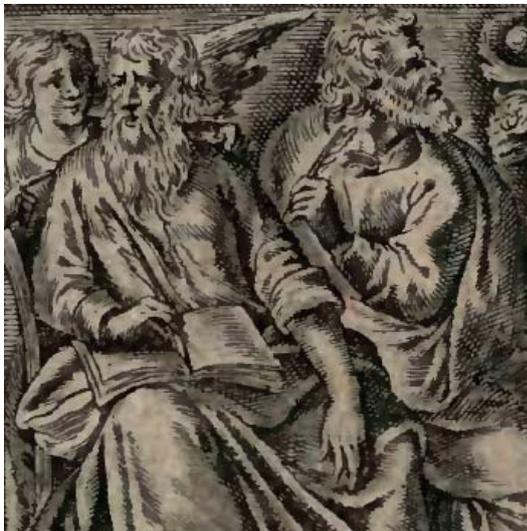
¶ Inspiration

"The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it." (Psalm 68:11).

Not only did God give His Word, but it has gone forth in great power. This is recognised because the King James Bible is the world's most widely distributed book.

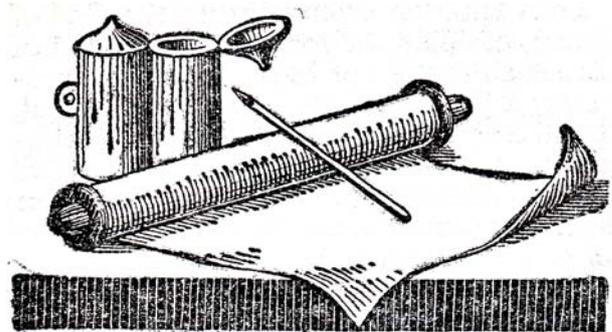
But what is the origin of the Bible? It is in fact a collection of books which were written from ancient times to Roman times by various men in various places.

Some parts of the Bible are history. Others are poetic. Others are prophetic. Others are instruction. But it all fits and works together. This is because there is one true author of the Bible — the Spirit of God.



"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." (2 Timothy 3:16, 17).

Inspiration means that God was using the men by His Spirit, to write His words. It means that as a person was writing, God was guiding them. The result of the process of inspiration is inspired words — divine words.



There was an Anglican scholar named John William Burgon, who wrote, "THE BIBLE is none other than *the voice of Him that sitteth upon the Throne!* Every book of it, — every Chapter of it, every Verse of it, — every word of it, every syllable of it, — (*where are we to stop?*) — every letter of it — is the direct utterance of the Most High!"

Every word of the Bible is full of divine power. After all, if God created

the world by speaking, and people are born again by speaking (confessing Christ), then it is only proper that we view words as very important.

¶ Copying

A prophet might have given a message and a scribe wrote it down, or a person might have compiled a book of the Bible. The words may have come from a variety of sources, but the inspiration of God was there in the making of the final form of that book in writing. That is called by scholars the "Autograph".

The autograph would have been written in Hebrew (and sometimes in Syriack) in the Old Testament. These are ancient languages spoken in the Middle East. The New Testament was written in Greek, because even after the Romans ruled, Greek was still widely spoken.

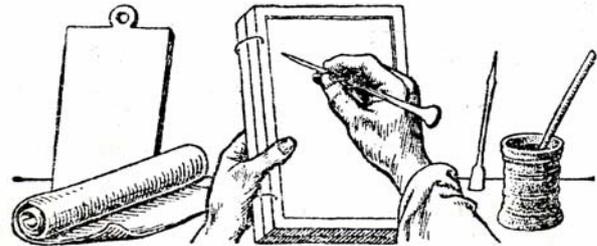
Even the Ten Commandments which Moses received written in stone from God Himself had to be written as part of a book of the Bible. Even though God wrote perfectly in the stone, the inspiration was there in Moses writing perfectly in the book.

There would not be just one copy only (the autograph), but copies had to be made. In time the autographs would wear out, and also more people in different places needed to see and read copies.

There is an example of where Jesus read a copy of the book of Isaiah in a synagogue.

"And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he

found the place where it was written" (Luke 4: 17).



¶ Preservation

Would the almighty God give His Word perfectly, only to have it lost in time? Would He neglect the Word of God once it was being copied?

"The words of the LORD *are* pure words: *as* silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever." (Psalm 12:6, 7).

The Bible promises that the Scripture would be preserved. That means the words, not the scrolls. Paper does not last forever, but God's Word is supposed to endure to the end.

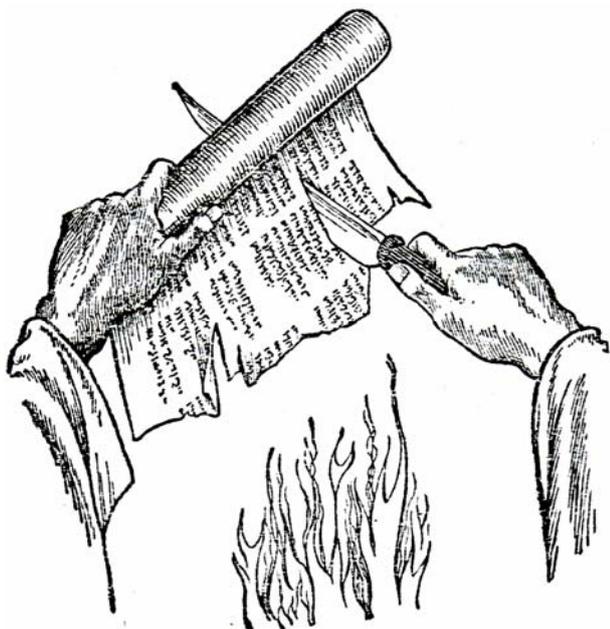
"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. ... But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you." (1 Peter 1:23, 25).

The Word of God is incorruptible, and it is supposed to go forth with power.

¶ The attack

Jesus said, "He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad." (Matthew 12:30).

The great enemy of God is Satan. Satan has been questioning God's Word since the beginning.



Not only does Satan cause people to doubt by stealing the Word out of their hearts, he also has moved people to destroy the written words. One of Jeremiah's rolls were burned up by an evil king who cut it with a penknife.

Satan also used Roman Catholics to burn up many English Bibles. But this was not enough to stop the Word of God.

"Blessed *be* the LORD, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant." (1 Kings 8:56).

Even if people willingly corrupt the Scripture by purposely making bad copies, that is not enough to make the very words of Scripture disappear out of history.

"Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar." (Proverbs 30:6).

"For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book." (Revelation 22:18, 19).

It is a cursed thing to change God's Word in any way, whether by adding to it or taking away from it.



Burning Tyndale's English Bibles

¶ The sanctuary

Although there was a scattering of the Word, God has also had a way of keeping or protecting His Word through history.

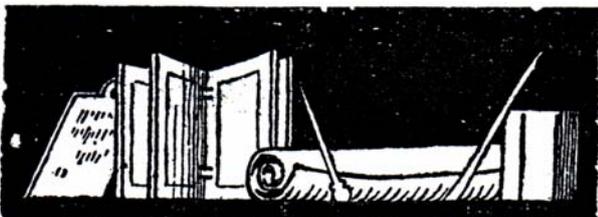
"But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." (1 Timothy 3:15).

God has used His people, the Church, to be the spiritual sanctuary for His Word. The Church is supposed to be where the Word of God is praised.

"In God will I praise *his* word: in the LORD will I praise *his* word." (Psalm 56:10).

The people of God loved the Word, and used it, so through time there was always a witness of the Word of God. Whether in the Dark Ages, or under the Romanist persecutions, the Word of God was present.

One major instrument for the keeping of the New Testament was the Eastern Orthodox Church. This old branch of the Church linked all the way back to the Apostle John, and they were never fully corrupted with Roman doctrines. Many reliable copies of the Greek New Testament were kept by this Church, which was once in what today is called Turkey.



¶ The unfailing Word

No matter what would happen, God's Word would continue, and go forth to every nation. According to God's view, the Scripture has gone forth to the whole world.

"For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel; Which is come unto you, as *it is* in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as *it doth* also in you, since the day ye heard *of it*, and knew the grace of God in truth ... If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and *be* not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, *and* which was preached to every creature which is under heaven" (Colossians 1:5, 6, 23a).

The attack on God's Word has not stopped it. The Bible is present today, and it is being preached to every nation.

